make the cost affordable by poorer sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) It is a fact that the common gadgets required for heart patients like heart valves and pace makers are rather costly and their cost may vary from Rs. 15000 to 60000/-

(c) Provision of health care is a State subject. Almost in all the Government hospitals medical care is provided either, free of cost or at subsidised rates depending upon the economic status of the patient.

3388. *[Transferred to 17th December, 1992]*

Anti-AIDS drug

3389. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first anti-AIDS drug ZIDOVUDINE, made in India would hit the domestic market shortly as per the news-item appeared in the Times of India, dated 11th November, 1992 under the caption "India-made anti-AIDS drug soon in market"; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The Drugs Controller (India) has permitted M/s CIPLA to manufacture and market Azidothymidine (AZT) in India. It is understood that the company has started marketing the drug in November, 1992.

Deaths of newly born babies

3390. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15 lakh newly born babies die within 28 days of birth every year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) As per the latest available Sample Registration System estimates of 1989 of Registrar General of India, number of neo natal deaths in 1989 was 13.2 lakhs.

(b) According to SRS reports for 1988, the major causes of neo natal deaths are: Prematurity, Respiratory infection of new born, cord infection, congenital malformation, diahorea of new born, birth injuries, and other causes.

(c) An integrated package of services under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme is being provided for reducing IMR, including neo natal deaths, in India. The Programme has the following components:—

(i) The Universal Immunization Programme for control of Vaccine Preventable Diseases being implemented. One of the goals is to eliminate Neo-netal tetanus which was a major cause of neo-natal deaths, prior to the immunization programme.

(ii) Universalize the existing prophylaxis Scheme for control of anaemia for pregnant women through administration of Iron and Folic Acid tablets in order to prevent low birth weight babies who contribute to a large proportion of neo natal deaths.

(iii) Improving maternal care at the